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**INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND LEADERSHIP (IBIL)  
UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA**

**CRED ECONOMIC BULLETIN No. 2**

**Corporate change in the Cumbrian Economy: Third Quarter (July-Sep.) 2019**



**CRED Research October 2019**

**Contact: Dr Gail Mulvey**

## **MACRO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW**

The third quarter of 2019 (July-September) has witnessed continuing pressures on the UK economy arising from uncertainties associated with political circumstances at a variety of spatial scales. While the UK is in turmoil due to Brexit negotiations, the global economy has been threatened much more significantly by continued trade conflicts between the US and China and political uncertainties surrounding international relations affecting oil-producing countries. It is the case, however, that Brexit - or more specifically, the threat of a no-deal Brexit and its impacts on business confidence - have had the most significant short-term impacts on UK economic trends.

### **International Context**

At the global scale, economic prospects in the short term at least have been weakened considerably by the ongoing trade disputes between the US and China. World trade in goods fell in Quarter 2 of 2019 by -0.7% while industrial production slowed to -0.1%<sup>1</sup>. The Bank of England MPC reported that almost all of US imports from China are now subject to significantly higher tariffs – bilateral tariffs between these two countries are now around 20% higher than at the start of 2018.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) analysis suggests that global growth could be around 3% for 2019 as a whole, its lowest level for ten years<sup>2</sup>. It is expected that 2020 will be stronger with predicted rates around 3.4%, although this depends on realisation of anticipated improvements in emerging markets in Latin America and the Middle East. The latter is, of course, subject to uncertainties surrounding geopolitical tensions that could affect international trade.

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<sup>1</sup> Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee Minutes of meeting ending 19 September 2019

<sup>2</sup> International Monetary Fund "World Economic Outlook: global manufacturing downturn, rising trade barriers", October 2019

The direct impact of these changes on the UK economy is relatively small, but the indirect effects mediated through slower global growth, its possible effects on the investment strategies of international corporations and impacts on the UK's major trading partners could be considerable. It is also not clear how these circumstances might affect the UK's prospects for negotiating new trade deals globally post-Brexit.

While growth in the UK has fluctuated in response to Brexit negotiations, the Euro area has also weakened during 2019 – growth was only 0.2% in Quarter 2. The MPC notes that the slowdown has been most severe in Germany, the UK's key trading partner within the EU. The German economy actually contracted by 0.1% in Q2. The US economy has continued its growth during 2019 but concerns continue to be voiced about dependence on domestic consumption and government spending.

### **The UK Economy and Brexit**

As reported in CRED Economic Bulletin for Quarter 2 2019, Brexit negotiations appear to have had a significant impact on purchasing and stockholding particularly in manufacturing but in supply chains and distribution in general. It was anticipated that manufacturers might build up stocks again in the lead up to the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October. Some limited evidence suggests that this has happened – in a recent IHS Markit survey<sup>3</sup>, it was noted that “a number of firms reported that purchasing had been raised as part of restarting Brexit preparations”. However, greater concerns were expressed by weakening demand from international customers due to routing supply chains away from the UK. At its September meeting, the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee suggested that while adjustments to inventories had persisted, there were few signs of intensified stockbuilding ahead of the October Brexit deadline. Evidence continues to suggest, however, a dampening effect on business investment nationally.

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<sup>3</sup> IHS Markit News Release, 1 October 2019

As far as output is concerned, estimates of growth in quarter 2 (April-June) have now been published and these confirm expectations of a fairly “flat” trend. GDP was down -0.2% on the previous quarter. Estimates for the three months to August are also available and show very slight growth on the previous three months (+0.3). In light of experience, most forecasters have scaled back their estimates of growth for 2019 end of year with the average now at 1.2% growth. A key element in these trends, of course, relates to manufacturing production which has now been confirmed as a fall of -2.3% for quarter 2 (following growth of +1.4% in quarter 1). Third quarter figures are not released until December, but the monthly estimate for August suggests little optimism (-0.7%).

Back in July, we reported that domestic demand had been more stable compared to the productive sector. As regards retailing, the three month rolling average to September 2019 reported an increase in volume of 0.6%. Growth continues to focus on “non-store” retailing that grew by 4.3%. Market conditions for non-food stores, however, continue to be highly challenging – retail volumes declined across all non-food store categories but particularly in retailing of clothing and footwear (-0.4%) and household goods (-0.7%).

As regards the visitor economy, data on international visitors did not quite match the records anticipated by VisitBritain set earlier in the year but even so, visitor numbers have come close to the record levels experienced in 2017 and 2018. In the first 6 months of 2019, visitor numbers to the UK were 1% lower than in 2018 and spend was 2% lower. These averages, however, mask regional variation in global origins. Visitor numbers from the EU were in fact down -2% (around 11.8m Jan.- June 2019) while visits from North America grew by 12% (to around 2.4m)<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> VisitBritain, Latest Monthly Data: Inbound Visitor Statistics for June 2019

Of course, it is domestic tourism (overnight stays by UK residents) that is more significant for tourism across most of the UK regions. Latest data from the Great Britain Tourism Survey tends to confirm the expectation of an increase in “staycations” as one response to a strong pound combined with Brexit uncertainties<sup>5</sup>. The total number of GB trips involving overnight stays for the first 6 months of 2019 reached 33.8m. This is 8.8% higher than in 2018. Interestingly, in the six months to June 2019, there were just over 4m trips with overnight stays in the NW region; an increase of +17.5% compared to the first half of the previous year.

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<sup>5</sup> KANTAR Great Britain Tourism Survey: Quarterly Regional Summary Q2 2019

## SELECTED NATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	<b>Q1 2019</b>	<b>Q2 2019</b>	<b>Estimate for three months to August 2019</b>	<b>2019 forecast <sup>(iii)</sup></b>
Gross Domestic Product change on the previous quarter	+ 0.6% <sup>(i)</sup>	Previously expected to be "flat" but now estimated as a decline of -0.2% <sup>(i)</sup>	+0.3% on previous three months <sup>(ii)</sup>	Average 1.2% (range from 1.1% to 1.6%)
Manufacturing output change on the previous quarter	+1.4% on previous quarter <sup>(iv)</sup>	Down -2.3% on previous quarter <sup>(iv)</sup>	Down -1.1% on previous 3 months <sup>(v)</sup>	
Annual inflation (CPIH) <sup>(vi)</sup>	1.8% year to March 2019	1.9% year to June 2019	1.7% year to August 2019	1.8%
Employment <sup>(vii)</sup>	32.7m	32.8m	32.7m	
Employment rate <sup>(vii)</sup>	76.1%	76.1%	75.9%	
LFS Unemployment <sup>(vii)</sup>	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%
Base Interest rate	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	

(i) GDP Quarterly national accounts UK April to June 2019 (Data release 30 September 2019)

(ii) GDP Monthly estimate, UK: August 2019.(Data release 10 October 2019)

(iii) HM Treasury, Forecasts for the UK Economy, October 2019

(iv) ONS Index of Production, June Report (corrected version)

(v) ONS Index of Production, August Report

(vi) ONS Consumer Price Inflation UK September 2019 Table 1

(vii) ONS Labour market review UK various issues 2019

## **CORPORATE CHANGE IN CUMBRIA: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019**

Despite Brexit, there have been reported significant levels of investment by firms in the County in the third quarter of the year (see Tables 1 and 2). This investment is taking several forms, be it in new premises; in technology and equipment; in developing new products; or in taking on new employees to meet growth in demand for products/services.

For example, businesses in the Accommodation and Hospitality sector are showing optimism by opening new units/outlets in the County (see Holiday Inn Express, Mc Donalds, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Amanté Bar and Secret Garden and a new farm visitor centre at Ings). In addition, several pubs and hotels have undertaken revamps and re-opened (see St. Nicholas Arms, Carlisle; The Royal Oak, Scotby; The Ambleside Inn, Ambleside and The Waterhead Hotel, Coniston). Public investment is contributing too with the creation of a new coastal route for cyclists and walkers on the West Coast and the building of an activities centre at Whitehaven. The former will see the building of a café and shower facilities at Silecroft Beach and the development of new cycle routes and paths. It is of note that it is the Accommodation and Food Services sector which has seen the highest number of reported job gains (138) in the last three months. Some of this may be seasonal but it is significant to note the association of jobs with new investments. Other public investment has given rise to the building of a £12M health centre in Barrow which will bring together a number of primary and community health services. In Carlisle, the County Council is building a new 93-space car park on the land behind the Citadel.

BAE Systems is investing £7.2M in upgrading the airfield on Walney Island. This involves building a new control tower, hangar, passenger lounge and garaging for emergency vehicles. This is so that the firm's "personnel can fly to locations across the country used by BAE Systems, Ministry of Defence and Royal Navy personnel and representatives of industry partners" (IC, 5.9.19). BAE is also spending £482,000 converting a piece of land owned by Cumbria County Council at Barrow into a temporary 750-bay car park for its employees. Also at Barrow, Ørsted has invested in a £4.2M heliport which will enable



helicopters to transport the firm's technicians to its offshore wind farm. Other firms in the private sector investing in new premises due to expected growth in sales include Stan Palmer Subaru, Lumier Ltd., Edwin Thompson, Orion Property Services, CAD Works Engineering Ltd., Jacobs, Bowness Bay Brewing, Andrew Porter Ltd. and a new vaping company, VAZ.

Investment in buildings can be seen in the Education sector too with the building of Campus Whitehaven; a new Head Quarters for GEN II at Lillyhall; and the opening of a new £6.8M state-of-the-art school for YMCA at Lakeside. Campus Whitehaven is a £30M building project which has brought two local schools – St. Benedict's and Mayfield schools, Whitehaven – together on one site "improving the teaching and learning environment" along with an all-weather 4G sports pitch which is also available for use by Copeland residents (IC, 28.8.19).

Growth through acquisition has been a common feature of the last three months with firms undertaking this activity mostly being in the Manufacturing sector. Acquisition can sometimes be a prelude to rationalisation and closure but these takeovers appear to be complementary rather than competitive in character. For example, Carr's Group, Carlisle, has acquired NW Total Engineered solutions, Barrow, for £9.6M in an attempt to strengthen its presence in the south of the County. NW Total works in the nuclear market and the acquisition will enhance Carr's engineering capabilities and expertise in that market. It is reported that the former owners of NW Total will remain in the business to drive future growth and there will be further investment through the recruitment of additional expertise (IC, 2.7.19).

The sector with the second highest number of reported job gains is that of the Professional, Financial and Business Services Activities (see Armstong Watson, David Allen and Solomons Europe).

One means by which to counter the negative impacts of leaving the EU is for firms to develop new products and seek to enter new product markets and this has been a strategy adopted and reported by a good number of firms in the County (see Hawkshead Relish, Out of Eden, Wax Lyrical, Pure Lakes Skin Care and Kidunk). As a means of furthering product promotion, this can also go hand-in-hand with entering or being nominated for industry awards. Firms that have been reported to be successful in winning top awards for innovative products in the County include Spirit of the Lakes, The Lake District Creamery, Pure Lakes Skin Care, Lovingly Artisan and Kidunk. Equally, firms can gain recognition for instituting new product regulations or processes which enhance environmental sustainability or health and safety standards (see New Balance, Skelwith Fold Caravan Park, James Cropper, Kingmoor Park, Shepley Group and TSP Engineering).

The last three months has seen reports of only a handful of firms go into administration or close, four of the five being in the Retail sector, although the numbers of jobs lost has not been reported (see Border Cars, Bathstore, Homebase, H&M and Focus Scaffolding Ltd.).

**Table 1: Reported Jobs Gained and Lost by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)**

	SIC Code	Jobs		Firms engaged in		
		To be gained	To be lost	New Investment	Disinvestment	Acquisition/ Merger
Agriculture	A			Bell Mount Farming		
Mining & Quarrying	B			West Cumbria Mining		
Manufacturing	C	23		Bowness Bay Brewing; Carlisle Embroidery; James Cropper; James Walker & Co.; Lumier Ltd.; Thomas Graham & Sons; Bender Hall; Bells of Lazonby; Hawkshead Relish; Wax Lyrical; BAE	Focus Scaffolding Ltd	Carr's Group; By Molly and Izzie; James Fisher & Sons; Bowness Bay Brewery;

				Systems; Pure Lakes Skin Care; Lovingly Artisan; CAD Works Engineering Ltd.; Orsted		R.S. Byers Engineering Ltd.
Water supply, sewerage & waste management activities	E			Typhon Treatment Systems		
Construction	F	7		RH Irving Construction; Coastal Challenge Route; Campus Whitehaven; Kingmoor Park		
Wholesale and Retail Trade	G	8		Stan Palmer Subaru; Farm Visitor Centre; VPZ; Enterprise Rent-A-Car; Out of Eden	Border Cars; Bathstore; H&M; Homebase	
Accommodation and Food Services	I	138		Amanté Bar and Secret Garden; McDonalds; Skelwith Fold Caravan Park; Holiday Inn Express; St. Nicholas Arms; The Inn Collection Group; The Royal Oak		
Transport, Storage, Information and Communication	H, J	-		Andrew Porter Ltd.		
Professional, Scientific, Financial and Insurance Activities	K, M	32	-	Solomons Europe; Eggbase; Armstrong Watson; David Allen		Napthens LLP & ATG
Real Estate, Renting and Admin. Support Activities	L, N	-	-	Orion Property Services		
Public Administration, Defence and Social Security	O	-		Cumbria County Council		
Education	P	-	-	Gen II; YMCA Lakeside		
Human Health & Social Work Activities	Q	-	-	Health Centre, Barrow; Chrysalis Cumbria		
Other Social, Recreational & Personal Services/ Activities	R, S, T	-	-	Cumbria Coastal Activities Centre		

The data in this table is based on the author's allocations of reported job gains and losses to SIC codes and has not been verified by separate enquiry. Consequently, it should not be viewed as necessarily comprehensive or wholly accurate. Press reports generally do not identify how many jobs are full or part-time, hence it is not possible to provide job numbers as Full-Time Equivalents. The main source of reports is the In-Cumbria AM newsletter.

**Table 2: Reported Jobs Gained or Lost and Investments – Breakdown**

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
2-Jul-19	Carr's Group plc	Carlisle	Manufacturing			The engineering co. has acquired NW Total Engineering Solutions Ltd, Barrow, for £9.6M.	The acquisition will strengthen the Group's engineering capabilities and expertise in the nuclear market and its presence in the south of the County.
2-Jul-19	Typhon Treatment Systems	Penrith	Water Supply and Waste Management			The co. which specialises in energy efficient water treatment technology has secured significant investment funds.	The funds from Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures (SAEV) will enable the co. to accelerate its "growth and technology development plans."
4-Jul-19	Gen II	Lillyhall	Education			The education and training provider's newly built HQ has been officially opened by Princess Anne.	
8-Jul-19	RH Irving Construction	Longtown	Construction	3			The civil engineering firm has taken on 2 new quantity surveyors and a site manager.
10-Jul-19	Solomons Europe	Great Boughton	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	10		The chartered surveyors have converted a derelict warehouse into a 4,000 ft <sup>2</sup> office block and called it the Papcastle Hub.	They will occupy 2 of the 5 offices, rent out 2 and offer the other to a local start-up business rent-free. They hope to expand their Cumbrian workforce thereby from 10 to 20.

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
11-Jul-19	Bowness Bay Brewing	Kendal	Manufacturing			The brewery is buying 6 state-of-the-art 5,000 litre fermenters, a fully automatic keg machine and sterile filter equipment.	Paid for from a £60,000 grant from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, this investment will enhance quality and increase productivity. It is also opening a new bar.
12-Jul-19	By Molly and Izzie	Irthington	Manufacturing	10		The on-line jewellery maker and retailer has bought another on-line retailer Lily Belle.	
12-Jul-19	Border Cars	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade				The car showroom dealers with sites in Carlisle, Workington and Scotland has appointed administrators and an unknown number of staff will lose their jobs.
12-Jul-19	Andrew Porter Ltd.	Kendal	Transport, Storage, Information and Communication			The self-storage firm has completed its 3 phases of expansion at Dockray Hall.	The first phase of 27 units opened in Dec. 2018, then 18 units followed in Aug 2019 and now 60 more are available.
15-Jul-19	Amanté Bar and Secret Garden	Carlisle	Accommodation & Food Services	10			Opening next month of a new bar in the former Royal Hotel on Lowther Street.
15-Jul-19	Carlisle Embroidery	Carlisle	Manufacturing			The embroidery firm on the Port Road Business Park has invested £160,000 in new machinery.	The two new machines will allow the firm to meet deliveries more quickly.

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
15-Jul-19	Orion Property Services	Wigton	Real Estate, Renting and Admin. Support Activities			The cleaning services business has moved premises from its former home at the bus station to the old Hopes auction mart.	This will allow it the opportunity to expand as it takes on the cleaning and management contracts of more holiday cottages.
17-Jul-19	James Cropper	Burneside	Manufacturing			The specialist paper and non-woven materials manufacturer has teamed up with Hallmark.	It is to supply its recycled material from its Cup Cycling scheme for the manufacture of a new 44-card range. All of the cards and envelopes in the collection are 100% recyclable.
17-Jul-19	McDonalds	Ulverston	Accommodation and Food Services	50		Opening a new restaurant and drive-thru.	It will be sited in Booths car park and create at least 30 FT and 20 PT jobs before mid-2020.
17-Jul-19	Kidunk	Kendal	Manufacturing			The designer and manufacturer of children's clothes has won Gold in the European Product Design Awards.	Having developed a fabric and garment which is 100% breathable, water-resistant and flexible, the award is for their range of "kid-proof" play clothes for children aged 2-6.
19-Jul-19	Shepley Group	Moor Row	Manufacturing			Shepley Engineers Ltd, PPS Electrical Ltd and West Cumberland Engineering Ltd (WCE) have received RoSPA awards for H&S practices.	Shepley Engineers Ltd and PPS Electrical received the Order of Distinction Award having achieved 23 and 19, respectively, consecutive Gold Awards. WCE received its 7 <sup>th</sup> consecutive Gold Award.

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
19-Jul-19	Skelwith Fold Caravan Park	Ambleside	Accommodation and Food Services			The caravan park is treating up to 40,000 litres of waste-water per day using specially constructed cultivated beds of iris plants.	"The park is a long-time holder of the David Bellamy Conservation Award at its top gold level thanks to different environmental initiatives it carries out on site" (IC, 20.7.19).
19-Jul-19	Stan Palmer Subaru	Carlisle	Retail and Wholesale Trade	3		The car dealership opened a new showroom on the Rosehill Industrial Estate.	The showroom has 1.5 acres of space compared to its old 0.5 acre site. The new site consists of an 8-car showroom, 10-bay workshop and forecourt with room for 60 used cars.
22-Jul-19	Bathstore	Carlisle	Retail and Wholesale Trade			The specialist bathroom retailer has gone into administration.	Closure of the Carlisle store after it was not included in a deal between its administrators and Homebase.
22-Jul-19	Holiday Inn Express	Barrow	Accommodation and Food Services			The co. is building a new hotel on the site of the former police station.	The hotel will have 127 bedrooms, 2 meeting rooms, a restaurant and bar and will open in December.
22-Jul-19	Farm Visitor Centre	Ings	Retail and Wholesale Trade			The new farm visitor centre includes a farm shop, butchers and café.	
22-Jul-19	Spirit of the Lakes	Thornthwaite	Manufacturing			The distiller of spirits won a prize in the global Gin Masters contest.	The company's "Bedrock Gooseberry & Elderflower Gin" won top prize in the "Flavoured Gin" category.
24-Jul-19	Focus Scaffolding Ltd	Whitehaven	Manufacturing			The co. has gone into liquidation.	As well as scaffold erection, the co. did joinery, painting, fire protection and thermal insulation.

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
25-Jul-19	TSP Engineering	Workington	Manufacturing			The engineering company has won a RoSPA H&S award.	The company was awarded Gold for its safety management record at its plant. It was also the first in the world to gain a new safety standard which focuses on improving safety in the nuclear sector.
25-Jul-19	James Walker & Co.	Cockermouth	Manufacturing			The manufacturer and developer of fluid seal components has invested in a multi-million pound flood defence system.	The new defences include: flood walls, gates, 2 pumping stations and swales. Cumbria LEP invested £2.6M in the project, called Project Ark, to protect this key business, support jobs and growth.
26-Jul-19	Coastal challenge route	West coast	Construction	4		The first phase of a £1.6M project - £1M from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund & the remainder from Sellafield.	A hub housing a café and toilet/shower facilities is to be built at Silecroft Beach; 10 art installations; new cycle path and new or improved footpaths, designed to bring more tourism to the area.
29-Jul-19	St. Nicholas Arms	Carlisle	Accommodation and Food Services	10		The pub has re-opened after a £180,000 revamp.	
29-Jul-19	VPZ	Whitehaven	Retail and Wholesale Trade	5		A new vaping store has opened.	
29-Jul-19	Campus Whitehaven	Whitehaven	Construction			A £30M building project which won "Best Building Project of the Year – Civils" in the NW Regional Construction Awards.	The project has brought 2 local schools: St. Benedict's and Mayfield, together on one site and includes an all-weather 4G sport pitch which is also available for use by Copeland residents.



Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
29-Jul-19	Lumier Ltd	Barrow	Manufacturing			A light manufacturing and supply firm is opening a new electrical wholesale supplies store.	
1-Aug-19	Lamont Pridmore	Carlisle	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities			The accountancy firm won Independent Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisory Firm of the Year 2019 Award.	The award organised by the publication "Acquisition International," recognises the contribution of professional advisers to business and the economy.
2-Aug-19	Thomas Graham & Sons	Carlisle	Manufacturing	5		The steel, stockholding and industrial supplies firm has won a £20M contract from the NDA.	The contract is to supply power tools and hardware to nuclear sites. It has also won a contract from Magnox to supply nuclear sites across the UK.
5-Aug-19	The Lake District Creamery	Aspatria	Manufacturing			The creamery was crowned Champion UK Creamery and Champion Block Cheddar in Show at the International Cheese & Dairy Awards	The co. also received Gold awards for its Mild, Mature and Extra Mature Cheddars. There were over 5,000 entries from 27 countries.
7-Aug-19	Health Centre	Barrow	Human Health & Social Work Activities			A new £12M health centre will open at the end of October/early November.	This will bring together a number of primary and community health services.
7-Aug-19	Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Kendal	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The car rental firm is opening a new branch.	It will have electric car charging facilities.

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
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7-Aug-19	New Balance	Flimby	Manufacturing			The sports shoe manufacturer is joining the RE100 and signing the UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action.	The RE100 is a commitment by companies to strive to source 100% of their energy requirements from renewable sources by 2025. The co. also now sends nothing to landfill, working with Derwent Recycling.
7-Aug-19	Out of Eden	Kirkby Stephen	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The hospitality supplier has introduced 2 new refillable toiletry collections which include vegan formulas and plastic-saving packaging.	The Eden range is available in 300ml bottles with 5-litre bulk refills. The original bottle/dispenser can be re-used over 15 times and then the empty 5-litre container can be recycled.
7-Aug-19	James Fisher and Sons	Barrow	Manufacturing			The engineering co. has acquired 60% of the Brazilian firm Continental, an air diving service provider to the oil sector.	The investment of £7.5M increases the firm's presence in the growing market for subsea services.
12-Aug-19	Bowness Bay Brewery	Kendal	Manufacturing			The brewing co. has acquired 2 other breweries – one at Standish, Lancs and the other being Appleby Brewery.	It will complement its existing brands and beers which it serves at the Barrell House, Kendal.
12-Aug-19	H&M	Workington	Wholesale & Retail Trade			The fashion clothing store is shutting this branch in the Washington Square shopping centre.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
16-Aug-19	Bender Hall	Ulverston	Manufacturing			The electrical specialist manufacturer has installed 2 new charging stations outside its offices.	The electric vehicle fast charging stations showcase their latest technological development and are aimed at public and commercial applications.
16-Aug-19	Bell Mount Farming; Bells of Lazonby; and Eggbase	Penrith; Lazonby; Sedbergh	Agriculture; Manufacturing; Professional, Scientific & Technical			These cos. are introducing advanced manufacturing methods thanks to the Government's £20M Made Smarter Programme.	The Programme says that by implementing advances in data analytics, AI, augmented reality, Industrial Internet of Things, 3D printing and robotics, firms can enhance their profitability.
22-Aug-19	Hawkshead Relish	Hawkshead	Manufacturing			The co. has developed a new range of ketchups.	In collaboration with chef, Tom Kerridge, the new range includes Black Garlic Ketchup, a fruity brown sauce, Chipotle Barbecue sauce and a Gherkin Ketchup.
23-Aug-19	Stables Thompson and Briscoe	Kendal	Professional, Scientific & Technical			The accountancy firm has bought J. Noel Paul & Co., Kirkby Stephen.	Expansion.
27-Aug-19	Wax Lyrical	Lindal	Manufacturing	2		The home fragrance co. is investing in a new R&D laboratory.	The luxury fragrance products manufacturer is also launching a new brand and product ranges.
27-Aug-19	YMCA Lakeside	Lakeside	Education			The outdoor education provider has opened a new £6.8M state-of-the-art school.	The organisation seeks to change the lives of young people by delivering transformative experiences and provides residentials.

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Investment / Acquisition / Innovation News	Reason Quoted / Details
				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
29-Aug-19	The Inn Collection Group	Ambleside and Coniston	Accommodation & Food Service Activities	60		The pub operator is looking to fill 60 hospitality positions at its newly redeveloped Lake District inns.	The vacancies are at The Ambleside Inn and The Waterhead Hotel.
3-Sep-19	BAE Systems	Barrow	Manufacturing			The shipyard is spending £482,000 converting a piece of land into a 750-space car park for employees.	This will be a temporary car park on land owned by Cumbria County Council while 2 of the co's. existing car parks are developed. Car parking capacity will be increased by > 600 spaces by 2021.
3-Sep-19	Chrysalis Cumbria	Wigton and Carlisle	Human Health & Social Work Activities			The disabilities charity is expanding the range of opportunities it provides and recruiting new staff.	It has received a £3,000 grant from the Newcastle Building Society's new English Street branch in Carlisle.
4-Sep-19	BAE Systems	Barrow	Manufacturing			The shipyard has invested £7.2M in an upgrade of the airfield on Walney Island.	A new control tower, hangar, passenger lounge and garaging for emergency vehicles has been built so that the co's personnel can fly to locations across the country used by BAE Systems.
4-Sep-19	Pure Lakes Skin Care	Staveley	Manufacturing			The skin care co. has won an award in the Natural Health International Beauty Awards.	The award is for its new product range of plant-based skin care designed specifically for men.
5-Sep-19	Lovingly Artisan	Plumgarths	Manufacturing			The bakery has won awards at the Baking Industry Awards in London.	It won the Bakery Innovation Award for its product Kombucha Sourdough. The co's. owner, Aidan Monks, was named Baker of the Year.

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				To be / Gained	To be / lost		
6-Sep-19	Frungo	Ulverston	Retail			The online retail platform was ranked 24 in the Sunday Times Hiscox Tech Track 100 league table.	The table ranks private technology, media and telecoms companies with the fastest growing sales. The co's annual sales have grown by 116% over the last 3 years, and is used by 2M shoppers in 32 countries.
9-Sep-19	The Royal Oak	Scotby	Accommodation and Food Services	8		After closure a year ago, the pub has re-opened and will employ 8 people.	
11-Sep-19	Edwin Thompson	Kendal	Real Estate Activities			The firm of chartered surveyors is to open a new office.	The office will offer a range of commercial, rural and woodland services and will be the firm's 4 <sup>th</sup> office in Cumbria.
11-Sep-19	Graphskill	Cleator Moor	Manufacturing			The co. makes pipe supports for many sectors & has developed a code, named the Standard Universal Measuring System (SUMS).	The co. has found that CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, has recently used their SUMS code to design parts – a major step towards universal uptake internationally.
13-Sep-19	CAD Works Engineering Ltd.	Carlisle	Manufacturing	6		The engineering firm has expanded its facilities at Kingmoor Park.	
16-Sep-19	Jacobs	Barrow	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities			The global consultancy firm has secured a £460,000 office on lease in the Trinity Enterprise Centre.	The firm has had a base in Barrow for 12 years, working on projects for BAE Systems.
16-Sep-19	Homebase	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail Trade			The store at Kingstown is to close.	

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16-Sep-19	West Cumbria Mining	Kells	Mining & Quarrying			The mining company has acquired the Haig Colliery site.	It intends to use the former museum visitor centre as their project office and as the main base for employee training in the future.
20-Sep-19	Kingmoor Park	Carlisle	Construction			A solar park of 3,000 photo voltaic panels is to be built.	When on stream next year, the panels will provide 877,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year being 15% of Kingmoor Park's energy needs.
20-Sep-19	R.S. Byers Engineering Ltd	Carlisle	Manufacturing			The firm which provides mechanical and manufacturing engineering services has acquired Nixon Engineering Ltd.	The acquisition will allow it to offer new products and services, including fabrication work. The co. is also enhancing the premises with new machinery including a 450 tonne hydraulic press.
20-Sep-19	Cumbria County Council	Carlisle	Public Administration			The council is building a new 93-space car park in the area behind the Citadel.	
20-Sep-19	Cumbria Coastal Activities Centre	Whitehaven	Arts, Entertainment & Recreation			The Government has given Whitehaven a £2.4M boost to build the activity centre.	It will be a facility for aqua sports, an arts and community centre and also provide storage at Whitehaven Harbour.
24-Sep-19	Armstrong Watson	Carlisle	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	14		The accountancy firm has appointed 14 chartered accountancy trainees to join the firm.	

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24-Sep-19	David Allen	Dalston and Carlisle	Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	8		The IT Solutions firm has expanded its workforce.	It has taken on 3 new tax trainees, 2 new apprentices for its accountancy department, 2 IT apprentices and an IT business Manager.
25-Sep-19	Ørsted	Barrow, Walney Extension offshore windfarm	Manufacturing			The engineering firm, Jones Brothers Civil Engineering UK, has designed and built a £4.2M heliport.	The heliport will enable helicopters to transport technicians from Barrow to the wind farm.
25-Sep-19	James Cropper	Burneside	Manufacturing			Award for Circular Economy category of "Sustainability Impact" from the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment.	The award is for returning used and unused materials to productive use - "closing the loop" - won for the firm's Cup Cycling facility which transforms used coffee cups into luxury paper & stationery.

#### Abbreviations:

IC- In Cumbria electronic newsletter